3/25/75

Dear Harold,

The enclosed Safire column reveals a bit from the Playboy Bradlee article, which is quite interesting. Of particular interest to you for TIGER will be the following excerpts:

June 14, 1962: "About 11 P.M. I got the President alone for a few minutes to explore how NEWSWEEK might expand his Yale speech on the crippling myths of America into a 'violin' for the next week's issue. (Violin means thematic opening for magazine.) He was very interested and ticked off a whole series of what he called myths...that massive retaliation was any longer a viable policy, that failure to recognize a foreign country somehow made that country suffer. He said that some myths were obviously still too sacred to discuss publicly, at least for him to discuss. He warned me not to attribute to him a conviction that the failure of the United States to recognize Red China was a mistake. But he said I could say that Washington was re-examining many myths, including that one."

Feb 11, 1963: "We talked a lot about Cuba. The President said that the presence of 17,000 Soviet troops in Cuba, 90 miles from the U.S., was one thing viewed by itself, but it was something else again when you knew there were 27,000 U.S. troops stationed in Turkey, right on the Soviet border, and they had been there some years. He warned me against releasing this information. Obviously it was classified, and just as obviously it would be politically suicidal for him to publicly equate the two. 'It isn't wise, politically, to understand Khrushchev's problems in quite this way,' he said quietly."

March 21, 1963: When Bradlee told JFK he was keeping a diary of their talks, and would not write anything about him without his permission long as he (JFK) lived, "Kennedy said there was no reason to wait that long. He insisted that he was glad that someone was keeping some kind of record of the more intimate details without which the real story of any administration cannot be told."

Spring break now--another quarter down, whew! No idea yet how I did. I hope you and Lil are well.

Best,

Howard